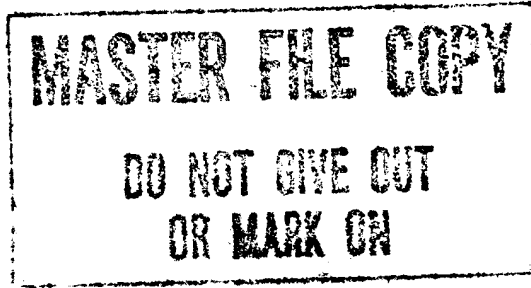


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## **Worldwide Active Measures and Propaganda Alert**

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**Supplement  
November 1986**

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# **Worldwide Active Measures and Propaganda Alert**

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**Supplement  
November 1986**

This quarterly was prepared by and coordinated within the Directorate of Intelligence. Information available as of 15 November 1986 was used in this supplement. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to [redacted]  
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**Worldwide Active Measures  
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**Article**

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**Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization: Moscow's Growing  
Propaganda Voice in the Third World** 1

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The 30-year-old, Soviet-controlled Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) appears to be gaining importance as an instrument of Moscow's propaganda strategy in the Third World. Since 1980 and especially during the past year, it has sponsored an increasing number of conferences promoting Soviet policies on key Third World issues such as apartheid, and has provided extensive support to national liberation movements. Although AAPSO is likely to play an even larger role in the future as Moscow's anti-imperialist spokesmen for the Third World, we believe Moscow's tight control over the organization will preclude it from becoming an effective propaganda vehicle any time soon.

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## Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization: Moscow's Growing Propaganda Voice in the Third World

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The 30-year-old, Soviet-controlled Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) appears to be gaining importance as an instrument of Moscow's propaganda strategy in the Third World. Since 1980 and especially during the past year, it has sponsored an increasing number of conferences promoting Soviet policies on key Third World issues such as apartheid and has provided extensive support to national liberation movements. The participation of CPSU Central Committee Secretary Anatoliy Dobrynin as the keynote speaker at AAPSO's 14th Council Meeting, held in Moscow in May 1986, underscores the organization's growing importance; Dobrynin is the most senior Soviet official to address the membership in recent years. Given the recent refocusing of the World Peace Council (Moscow's largest front group) primarily to East-West issues, we believe AAPSO will play an even larger role in the future as Moscow's anti-imperialist spokesman for the Third World. Nevertheless, Moscow's poorly masked control over AAPSO almost certainly will preclude it from becoming an effective Soviet propaganda vehicle anytime soon.

### AAPSO's Wornout Image

To make AAPSO attractive and credible to a broader, more politically moderate audience, as well as to revitalize the group's national affiliates, Moscow must change an image that has developed over nearly 30 years. The Cairo-based front group, presently directed by the Iraqi-born Sec. Gen. Nouri Abdel Razzak Hussein, has served as an agent to endorse Soviet policies, such as in Afghanistan; to influence the Nonaligned Movement; to support liberation movements; and to attack Third World policies of the United States, Western Europe, and transnational corporations. Despite its growth from an original 38 affiliates in 1957 to over 80 regular and associate members today, we believe AAPSO generally has been an ineffectual Soviet propaganda arm, noted mostly for its Moscow-style rhetoric.



*The 52-year-old Nouri Abdel Razzak Hussein, an Iraqi Communist, became a member of AAPSO in the early 1970s, and has held the post of Secretary General since 1978. He has had a longstanding involvement with other Soviet front organizations as well, including serving as Secretary General of the International Union of Students from 1960 to 1969, and as a member of the World Peace Council since the early 1970s.*

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AAPSO's image, especially among many nonaligned leaders, probably has suffered most because its activities are under the poorly masked control of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee (SAASC), AAPSO's parent organization in Moscow. SAASC's authority is such that it operates independently of AAPSO in:

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- Issuing statements supportive of Moscow's foreign policy in the name of AAPSO, such as the nuclear test moratorium issue.
- Directly inviting guests to AAPSO meetings; for example, asking the UN Secretary for the International Year of Peace to attend the 14th AAPSO Council Meeting.
- Directly controlling AAPSO conference agendas.
- Directly applying for consultative status with the UN Department of Public Information in order to gain additional access to UN facilities and better position itself to direct and control AAPSO's involvement in UNESCO and other UN components.

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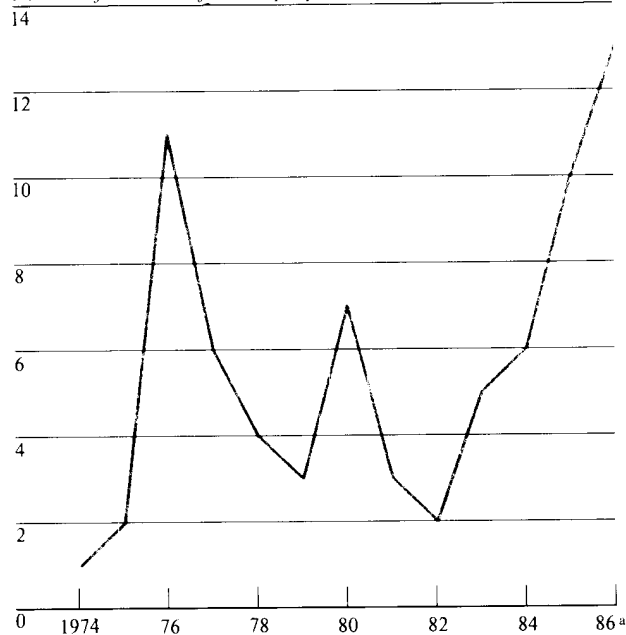
**New Direction**

During the early 1980s, and particularly in the past year, we have observed a reinvigoration of AAPSO, most evident in the increasing number of conferences it has sponsored. Other evidence includes AAPSO's more prominent role in addressing regional Third World issues, its increased support for liberation movements, and an apparently growing Soviet financial commitment. Recent AAPSO conferences have focused, for example, on peace and security in Asia and the Pacific region, Middle East issues, apartheid, and international communications.

**Asia-Pacific Initiatives.** In concert with Gorbachev's July speech at Vladivostok, the Soviet front apparatus is undertaking new initiatives in Asia, with AAPSO playing an important role.

**AAPSO-Sponsored Conferences, 1974-86**

Number of known conferences per year

<sup>a</sup> As of mid-November 1986.

**Middle Eastern Role.** To complement its diplomatic efforts aimed at regaining influence in the Middle East (including appointing a former AAPSO official to be the Soviet ambassador to Syria) Moscow is pushing AAPSO to assume a greater role as a regional spokesman:

- Early this month AAPSO issued several statements condemning US and British diplomatic opposition to Syria's terrorist connection.
- In September, AAPSO sponsored a symposium in Cairo to assess possible repercussions of the Iran-Iraq war on the Middle East.

- AAPSO continues to exploit the April 1986 US airstrikes on Libya.

**Antiapartheid Campaign.** In an effort to broaden its appeal, even among West Europeans, AAPSO has expanded its antiapartheid program over the past

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year. Its tactics have included conferences, aid, solidarity statements, and involvement in various UN forums:

- In October 1985 AAPSO convened an emergency "Solidarity with Southern Africa" conference in Addis Ababa to coincide with an international antiapartheid solidarity week.
- In November 1985 two AAPSO delegates participated in the formulation of the 1985 program of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid (SCAA). The SCAA frequently draws support for UN antiapartheid resolutions from AAPSO and other front groups.



- Radio Moscow reported that 100 European, Asian, and African delegates attended a September 1986 AAPSO-sponsored antiapartheid conference in Brazzaville.

**Communications.** AAPSO is playing a key role in the Soviet propaganda campaign against US "information imperialism" in the Third World. In November 1984 and April 1986, AAPSO sponsored conferences in Kabul urging achievement of a "New International Information Order" (NIIO). The NIIO was a plan originally proposed by UNESCO and started about 10 years ago by a number of nonaligned countries, such as Yugoslavia and Cuba, to pool Third World media resources in an effort to counter the alleged monopolistic impact of Western news services. By taking those initiatives for the NIIO, AAPSO is positioning itself as a spokesman for the Third World on media issues and demonstrating its support to UNESCO, with which it has consultative status.



**Vehicle for Supporting Liberation Movements.** AAPSO provides an important and convenient link between Moscow and various national liberation movements.

AAPSO supports about 12 such organizations, among the most prominent of which are the African National Congress (ANC) and the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), with which it has longstanding ties. ANC Secretary General Alfred Nzo, for example, is a vice president of AAPSO. AAPSO's 1986 program specifying increased support to the liberation movements of southern Africa received considerable publicity during the September Nonaligned Movement (NAM) summit in Harare, Zimbabwe. We believe that AAPSO, the only Soviet front group with observer status in the NAM, used this forum to improve its credibility among black Africans, to demonstrate Soviet support for more militant action in southern Africa, and to encourage international moral and material support for the antiapartheid cause.

Other AAPSO activities in support of liberation movements have included:

- Establishment in the late-1970s, under AAPSO's auspices, of the International Commission of Enquiry into Crimes of the Racist Regimes in Southern Africa.
- Serving as a conduit between member countries and the ANC for material support such as medicine, blankets, books, clothing,
- Functioning as an outlet for liberation propaganda through interviews with liberation leaders, radio or press statements, and articles for various propaganda journals, including its own publications.



**Growing Soviet Financial Commitment.** While it is difficult to determine the exact size of Moscow's budget for supporting AAPSO, the increasing number

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of AAPSO-sponsored conferences and more frequent travel of AAPSO delegations, especially over the last year, suggests a growing Soviet financial investment, and thus a commitment by Moscow to revitalize AAPSO. Although there are contributions from other members—notably East Germany, Libya, and Egypt—Moscow bears the burden of sustaining AAPSO's operation by several different means. [REDACTED]

- Push Third World leaders to develop a viable international media network to rival Western news services.
- Become more active in the southwestern Pacific region, an area increasingly important to the Soviet Union, and one in which Soviet youth and labor fronts recently have been promoting the creation of a nuclear-free zone and propagandizing apartheid.

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Despite such anticipated strategies, we believe that AAPSO's effectiveness as a Soviet propaganda vehicle will continue to be hampered by Moscow's tight control for the foreseeable future. Evidence suggests that the Soviets remain unwilling to disguise the influence they exercise over AAPSO and its affiliates, or to limit their persistent attempts to dictate AAPSO agendas and policies. Until Moscow changes its traditional methods of operation, we do not expect AAPSO to gain many converts or to be viewed as anything more than another organ of Soviet propaganda and influence. [REDACTED]

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### Outlook

We believe that Moscow will continue in the next few years with a major effort to make AAPSO an attractive, credible forum for issues that appeal to both Third World and West European audiences. Moscow probably will direct AAPSO to:

- Concentrate on popular regional issues such as apartheid that are likely to attract adherents more interested in the cause than in AAPSO itself.
- Continue building relations with international organizations, such as the United Nations, in an effort to become an indispensable consultant on Third World issues.

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